

CLAIMS

1. A gate apparatus for a paddle and ball game played by two opposing players or two opposing pairs of players, each player is provided with a paddle, the apparatus comprising,
 - a frame delimiting a defined area above the ground for a ball to be transferred therethrough by means of a paddle; and
 - a base element for stabilizing the frame above the ground.
- 10 2. The gate apparatus of claim 1 wherein the frame is of an adjustable size for allowing adjustment of the frame according to desired degree of game difficulty.
- 15 3. The gate apparatus of claim 1 wherein the stabilizing element is an integral part of the frame.
4. The gate apparatus of claim 1 wherein the apparatus is a portable apparatus comprising components disengageably connected to each other.
- 20 5. The gate apparatus of claim 1 wherein the frame is of a rectangular shape.
6. The gate apparatus of claim 1 provided with glowing or illuminating means for facilitating playing under dim conditions
- 25 7. The gate apparatus of claim 1 wherein the apparatus comprises:
 - two vertical rods positioned a predetermined space apart;
 - and
 - 30 two horizontal rods connected substantially perpendicular to the vertical rods therebetween, one of the two horizontal rods

- is connected to the vertical rods at a predetermined height above the ground and the second horizontal rod is connected to the vertical rods at a predetermined distance above the first horizontal substantially parallel to the first horizontal rod;
- 5 thereby forming a rectangular frame delimiting a closed space at the predetermined height above the ground for a ball to be transferred therethrough by means of paddles.
8. The game apparatus of claim 7 wherein the two horizontal rods
10 are movably connected to the vertical rods for allowing adjustment of the frame size by adjusting the predetermined height of the first horizontal rod and the predetermined distance between the rods.
- 15 9. The game apparatus of claim 7 further comprising a third horizontal rod movably connected to the vertical rods parallel and between said two horizontal rods for allowing adjustment of the frame size.
- 20 10. The game apparatus of claim 7 further comprising two pairs of supporting rods.
- 25 11. The game apparatus according to claims 7-10 wherein at least one of the rods comprises separate rod elements connectable to each other continuously to form the at least one rod.
12. The game apparatus according to claims 7-10 wherein at least one of the rods is a telescopic tubular pipe of adjustable length.
- 30 13. The game apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a net encircling the frame.

14. The gate apparatus of claim 1 wherein the frame comprises a net having an opening.
- 5 15. The gate apparatus of claim 14 further comprising two vertical rods and fastening elements for fastening the net to and between said two vertical rods.
- 10 16. The gate apparatus of claim 14 wherein the net is provided with sleeves adapted for receiving vertical rods for supporting the net above the ground level.
- 15 17. The gate apparatus of claim 14 further provided with means for adjusting the size of the opening.
19. The gate apparatus of claim 17 wherein the net is having an inner rim and said means are a thread threaded through said inner rim, the two ends of the thread extending through an opening in said inner rim for allowing pulling the ends to contract said inner rim.
- 25 20. A game assembly for a paddle and ball game, the assembly comprises a plurality of elements disengageably connected to each other for forming a frame delimiting a closed space above the ground, at least two paddles and a resilient ball.
- 30 21. The game assembly of claim 20 wherein said elements include rods.

22. The game assembly of claim 21 wherein said elements further include a net.
- 5 23. The game assembly of claim 20 further comprising a basketball hoop and a dart game table disengageably connectable to the frame.
- 10 24. A competitive paddle and ball game for two players or more, the game comprising at least one gate apparatus as defined in claim 1 comprising a frame for delimiting a closed area above the ground, a paddle for each player, a resilient ball and a set of rules and regulations for scoring points to win said game, said rules and regulations involve transferring the ball in air through said closed area by means of said paddles.
- 15 25. The game according claim 24 wherein the gate apparatus is positioned between the two players.
- 20 26. The game according to claim 24 wherein two gate apparatuses are positioned a space apart and wherein the two players are standing each in front of one of the gate apparatuses.
- 25 27. The game according to claim 24 wherein the rules and regulations of the game further involve at least one defined area marked on the ground for delimiting movements of the ball and/or a player in relation to said at least one defined area.
- 30 28. A method for playing a paddle and ball game, the method comprising installing at least one gate apparatus as defined in claim 1, the game apparatus comprising a frame for delimiting a

defined area above the ground and transferring a resilient ball by means of paddles through said defined area.

29. The method of claim 28 further comprising marking at least one defined area on the ground for regulating movements of the ball and/or the players in relation to the at least one defined area.
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